

## FIELD MEETING

Wyre Forest, Worcestershire and Shropshire, 6/7 August 1988

**Leader: C. W. Plant.** There was a good turnout of around twenty members at this weekend meeting, in spite of at least one member encountering initial confusion between Wyre and Wye! Pleasing too to welcome faces additional to those regulars from the southern counties of Britain! Saturday was spent recording mainly micro- and macro- Lepidoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera and Arachnida, first along the disused railway track which runs the length of the national nature reserve section of the Wyre Forest then later back to the cars along the length of the Dowles Brook, taking in several ancient meadows in the valley bottom. Sadly, the insects were not numerous (perhaps a function of the apparent lack of proper management of both the wooded areas and the meadows), though a number of interesting species were noted. Andrew Godfrey took the Asilid fly *Laphria marginata* (L.) and a gynandromorphic example of the Stratiomyiid *Beris vallata* (Forster), having the holoptic eyes and left clasper of the male together with the ovipositor of the female! Peter Follett and possibly others took *Xylota coeruliventris* Zett. whilst several people took *Xylota florum* (F.). These two hoverflies are thought to have mutually exclusive distributions and this record may be the first for the two species together at a single site. Robert Dyke, having captured the only *Minoa murinata* (Scop.) of the day proceeded to locate a single pupa of the plume moth *Amblyptilia punctidactyla* (Haw.) on *Stachys sylvatica* flowers on the Shropshire side of the border and, with assistance from Barry Goater and the leader several more pupae and larvae were collected. It is of interest that the larval descriptions of this species and *A. acanthadactyla* (Hb.) may be transposed in Beirne's *British pyralid and plume moths* since these examples, undoubtedly the former species, had larvae fitting the description of the latter. Peter Harvey also found the spider *Xerolycosa nemoralis* (Westring) — probably a new record for Worcestershire. During the afternoon the party drove to Rock Coppice, a newly annexed part of the NNR on the Worcestershire side of the brook and, within minutes, several *A. punctidactyla* larvae were located here also.

Several interesting moths were captured at the nine light traps which were set up during the ensuing evening though only one trap produced numbers of *Enargia paleacea* (Esp.). Notable macros included *Deileptenia ribeata* (Cl.), *Phytometra viridaria* (Cl.) and *Parascotia fuliginaria* (L.) — all new records for the NNR; several micros included *Acrobasis consociella* (Hb.).

Suitably refreshed by beer and rested after a good night's sleep, the remainder of the party rejoined the Lepidopterists on Sunday morning for an examination of the Forestry Commission portion of the forest. Diptera were the principal quarry and all the advertised species were recorded; most people managed to catch *Sphaerophoria virgata* Goeldlin de Tiefenau whilst many also took *S. batava* Goeldlin de Tierfenau, *S. menthastri* (L.) and *S. philanthus* (Meig.). Other hoverflies included more *Xylota coeruliventris* Zett. (in areas where the leader has taken *X. florum* in earlier years); a second example of the drab looper moth *Minoa murinata* (Scop.) was taken in flight by Graham Finch; and Peter Harvey collected examples of the two spiders *Araneus alsine* (Walchenaer) and *Cercidia prominens* Westring) — both probably new for Worcestershire. After lunch, Peter Chandler returned to the NNR and in Shelf-held Coppice located the rare crane-fly *Gonomyia alboscuteolata* (Von Roser) — captured here in 1987 by the leader and one of the trip's "target species". Here, Peter also captured the second British record of the fungus fly *Macrocera fastuosa* and *Phronia sudetica* recorded as new to Britain in 1987.